

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on November 16, 2005, and the references cited therewith. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Claim 13 has been amended. Claims 1-18 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been inserted. The amendment to claim 13 has support in claims 1 and 14 and throughout the specification.

Objections

Figure 3 was objected to because there is no description in the specification of number 142 with regard to Figure 3. In response, Applicants have amended Figure 3 to eliminate reference number 142. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Figure 7 was objected to because there is no reference number 142 thereon. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to eliminate recitation of reference number 142. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Figures 10a and 10b were rejected because there was no reference number 228 included thereon. In response, Applicants have amended Figure 10b to include reference number 228. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended claim 13 in order to obviate this rejection. Applicants assert that there is now proper antecedent basis for the recitation of "the breather port". Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by either Voights (USPN 6,266,208) or Gidumal (USPN 6,296,691). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Voights discloses an integrated filter for use in a disk drive. However, Voights fails to disclose or suggest a “housing defining an inlet port and an outlet port through the at least one sidewall”, as required by claims 1, 14, and 16. Similarly, Voights fails to disclose or suggest a “housing defining an inlet port and an outlet port”, as required by claim 13. Therefore, Voights fails to teach or suggest the inventions of claims 1, 13, 14, and 16. As claims 2-12 are dependent on claim 1, as claim 15 is dependent on claim 14, and as claims 17 and 18 are dependent on claim 16, they are also not anticipated or suggested.

Gidumal discloses a multi-functional molded filter for removing contaminants from an enclosure. However, Gidumal fails to disclose or suggest a “housing defining an inlet port and an outlet port through the at least one sidewall”, as required by claims 1, 14, and 16. Similarly, Gidumal fails to disclose or suggest a “housing defining an inlet port and an outlet port”, as required by claim 13. Therefore, Gidumal fails to teach or suggest the inventions of claims 1, 13, 14, and 16. As claims 2-12 are dependent on claim 1, as claim 15 is dependent on claim 14, and as claims 17 and 18 are dependent on claim 16, they are also not anticipated or suggested. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612-746-4783) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3688

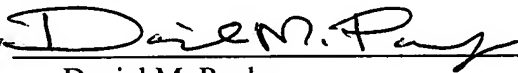
Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL L. TUMA ET AL.

By their Representatives,

Pauly, DeVries Smith & Deffner, L.L.C.
900 IDS Center
Customer Number: 57557
612-746-4783

Date 3-16-06

By 
Daniel M. Pauly
Reg. No. 40,123

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of replacement drawings include changes to Fig. 3 and Fig. 10b. The changes are reflected in copies of Fig. 3 and Fig. 10b showing the changes in red ink. In Fig. 3, the reference number 142 and the accompanying arrow have been deleted. In Fig. 10b, the reference number 228 and an arrow have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes